

# City of Lynchburg Police Department

## Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

**Neighborhood Watch  
Newsletter**

**Newsletter Date  
April 22, 2014**

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## Night Out Against Crime 2014



**Thank you to everyone who hosted a Night Out event, planned, coordinated, cooked, and participated in this year's event. There were a lot of positive comments, and each event was very special. Thank you all for everything you do to make Neighborhood Watch a Success in the Hill City!**



**Crime Prevention - (434) 455-6070**

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## Night Out Against Crime Photos!



Fort Hill NHW at the LPD West Building



Diamond Hill Non-Historic NHW at the Diamond Hill Center



Edley Addition NHW at the Fort Hill Community School



Lt. Ragland, Major Stokes, Major Swisher, and Delegate Garrett visiting with Riverside Park NHW members at the Miller Claytor House.

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## Crime Prevention Unit Staff

Lieutenant M. Booker 455-6165 (Begins October 6)  
Officer R. Gonzalez - School Resource Officer Heritage High School  
Officer L. Brooks - School Resource Officer E.C. Glass High School  
Officer A. Johnson - School Resource Officer Dunbar School for Innovation  
Officer D. Dill - School Resource Officer Linkhorne Middle School  
Officer J. Petersen - School Resource Officer Sandusky Middle School  
Officer P. Doss - Community Resource Officer 455-6302  
Cindy Kozerow - Crime Prevention Specialist 455-6145  
Steven Wood - Community Services Coordinator 455-6158

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## October is Crime Prevention Month



### Crime Prevention Month and Halloween

October is Crime Prevention Month and also the month in which Halloween is celebrated. Learn how to celebrate both together.

Although children look forward to tricks, treats, and ghoulish garb, Halloween can be fraught with fright for parents, with candy given to their kids by strangers and a legion of masked and costumed trick-or-treaters at the door. However, following a few safety tips can ensure safe fun for kids and candy-givers alike.

The activities below focus on Halloween, which is celebrated in the last week of October. The efforts throughout the month generate enthusiasm for crime prevention so it can grow stronger and become more widespread.

To ensure that trick-or-treaters, you, and your house stay safe, remember the following tips.

Clear your yard and sidewalk of any obstacles or decorations that may be hard to see in the dark, lest someone go bump in the night.

Keep your house well lighted, both inside and out; you wouldn't want to miss any particularly good costumes, would you?

Ask your Neighborhood Watch or local citizen's group to haunt (patrol) your community.

Report any suspicious or criminal activity to your police or sheriff's department.

To make sure even the scariest costumes are safe, keep the following in mind when buying or designing one.

Try makeup instead of masks; it's more comfortable and doesn't obstruct vision the way masks can.

Check to ensure that costumes are flame-retardant so that young ones are safe around jack-o'-lanterns, candles, and other flames.

Keep costumes short to ensure that the only trip taken is the one around the neighborhood.

Look for brightly colored costumes, attach reflector strips to costumes and bags, and remind trick-or-treaters to carry glow sticks and flashlights.

If a costume involves any sort of fake weapon, make sure that it is made of a flexible material such as cardboard or foam. Or, avoid the whole problem of weapons by challenging your child to design a costume that is scary without one.

Keep in mind the next few tips to make sure your trick-or-treater's night in the neighborhood will be safe and fun.

Older kids should trick-or-treat in groups; kids walking around alone are never as safe as those in groups, and especially not at night. Younger kids should be accompanied by a parent or trusted neighbor.

Review the route for trick-or-treating beforehand and set a time set when kids should be home. Also, have a plan if your child gets separated from his or her friends or from you.

Remind your children not to enter strange houses or cars.

After a successful and safe night around the neighborhood, remember that the treats still need scrutiny before anyone eats them.

Remind your children not to eat treats until they've come home. To help ensure this, feed them a meal or a substantial snack before they go out.

Check all treats at home in a well-lighted place. Be especially wary of anything that is not wrapped by the factory or that is no longer sealed.

Remind kids not to eat everything at once, lest they be green even without the makeup.

## Crime Prevention Tips

# Senior Safety

### Tips to Protect Your Money and Avoid Fraud

- Avoid sending money or providing personal and financial information
- Shred bills, notices and personal mail before throwing them away
- Do not sign any documents without carefully reviewing them
- Review credit card bills and bank statements
- Write "Photo ID Required" or "See ID" on the back of all credit/debit cards
- Never willingly volunteer information. Anyone who calls or contacts you should be able to provide you with information regarding the call. They should not look to you to provide them with information
- If something seems too good to be true it probably is
- Before spending money or making investments, call a loved one to discuss your plans

#### Common Types of Scams/Schemes:

##### Home Improvement

- Use well-known contractors.
- Look out for contractors who are looking for money upfront
- Beware of contractors who come by with left over materials from another job and tell you they can do the job for a discounted price

##### Credit-Related Scams

- Beware of someone promising to give you a credit card regardless of your credit for a fee
- Beware of agencies offering credit card protection or credit repair for a fee

##### Door-Door Solicitations/Charity Scams

- Beware of sales people who come by your home pressuring you into an "act now" deal
- Beware when people call or stop by looking for donations after incidents such as hurricanes, floods, or other catastrophes

##### Foreign Lottery or Money Schemes

- Do not give out your bank account number
- Beware of anyone asking to transfer money into your bank account
- Don't send anyone money who tells you they need you to first send them money before you can claim your prize
- Foreign lotteries promoted by phone or mail are illegal in the US

##### Investment Schemes

- Beware of someone who is offering you major gains on an investment. If it seems too good to be true, it probably is
- Reverse Mortgages — use a reputable lender
- Recognize predatory lending practices
- Beware of anyone pressuring you into an "act now" deal

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[www.lynchburgva.gov/police-department](http://www.lynchburgva.gov/police-department)  
Crime Prevention Section

